

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the specification and claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Stephen T. Scherrer
Registration No. 45,080
McDermott, Will & Emery
227 West Monroe Street
Chicago, IL 60606-9815
312-372-7753 (telephone)
312-984-7700 (facsimile)

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the specification:

The following paragraph has been added before the first paragraph of the specification as

follows:

REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/400,806, filed

September 22, 1999, now allowed, which is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application No.

09/352,897, filed on July 13, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No.

08/988,155 filed on December 10, 1997, now abandoned.

The following sentence at page 5, line 11 has been added, which pertains to the new figures,
Figures 6a through 6d (attached hereto):

Figures 6a through 6d illustrate a flow chart depicting the manufacturing process for
creating a package having the tear tape of the present invention.

In the claims:

Claims 1-8 have been canceled.

The following claims have been added as follows:

9. A method of forming a package comprising the steps of:

providing a sheet of plastic packaging material having two sides and a top edge
and a bottom edge;

attaching a heat sealable tear tape to said plastic packaging material wherein said heat sealable tear tape comprises a first heat sealable layer on a first side of said heat sealable tear tape and a second heat sealable layer on a second side of said heat sealable tear tape;

placing a food product on said plastic packaging material;

folding said plastic packaging material over said food product such that said top edge and said bottom edge are aligned; and

sealing said folded plastic packaging material along said two sides and along said aligned top and bottom edges.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein said sheet of plastic packaging material comprises multiple film layers.

11. The method of claim 9 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a first oriented film layer disposed between said first heat sealable layer and said second heat sealable layer.

12. The method of claim 11 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a first adhesive disposed between said first oriented film layer and said first heat sealable layer and a second adhesive disposed between said first oriented film layer and said second heat sealable layer.

13. The method of claim 11 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a second oriented layer disposed between said first heat sealable layer and said second heat sealable layer and further wherein a core adhesive layer is disposed between said first and second oriented film layers.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein said heat sealable tear tape further comprises a first adhesive layer disposed between said first oriented layer and said first heat sealable layer

and a second adhesive layer disposed between said second oriented layer and said second heat sealable layer.

15. The method of claim 9 wherein said heat sealable tear tape is symmetrical through a cross-section of said heat sealable tear tape.

16. The method of claim 9 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have melt temperatures below about 220°F.

17. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:
attaching a reclosable zipper to said plastic packaging material prior to placing said food product on said plastic packaging material.

18. A method of forming a package comprising the steps of:
providing a sheet of plastic packaging material having two sides and a top edge and a bottom edge;
attaching a heat sealable tear tape to said plastic packaging material wherein said heat sealable tear tape has a first heat sealable layer on a first side of said heat sealable tear tape and a second heat sealable layer on a second side of said heat sealable tear tape;
attaching a reclosable zipper to said plastic packaging material;
placing a food product on said plastic packaging material;
folding said plastic packaging material over said food product such that said top edge and said bottom edge are aligned; and
sealing said folded plastic packaging material along said two sides and along said aligned top and bottom edges.

19. The method of claim 18 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have melt temperatures below about 220°F.

20. The method of claim 18, wherein said first and second heat sealable layers each comprise a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, ionomer, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer and single site polyethylene.

21. The method of claim 18, wherein said first and second heat sealable layers comprise coextruded ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer

22. The method of claim 18, wherein said first and second heat sealable layers comprise coextruded ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer.

23. A hermetically sealed plastic package made by the method of claim 9.

24. The hermetically sealed plastic package of claim 23 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have melt temperatures of below approximately 220°F.

25. The hermetically sealed plastic package of claim 23 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers comprise a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, ionomer, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer, and single site polyethylene.

26. A hermetically sealed plastic package made by the method of claim 19.

27. The hermetically sealed plastic package of claim 26 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers have melt temperatures of below approximately 220°F.

28. The hermetically sealed plastic package of claim 26 wherein said first and second heat sealable layers comprise a material selected from the group consisting of ethylene methyl acrylate copolymer, ethylene vinyl acetate copolymer, ionomer, ethylene acrylic acid copolymer, and single site polyethylene.

In re Appln. of Hodson, et al.
Serial No. 09/925,560

In the drawings:

FIGS. 6a-6d have been added (attached hereto).

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